UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.17/IPF/1996/23
20 August 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests
Third session
9-20 September 1996
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSTRUMENTS, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE LEGAL MECHANISMS

Programme element V.1: International organizations and multilateral institutions and instruments

Report of the Secretary General

SUMMARY

The present report contains an overview and description of existing institutions and instruments, including their role and mandates vis à vis programme elements I-IV of the work programme of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, and identifies institutional linkages, gaps, areas requiring enhancement and any areas of duplication. It takes into consideration the deliberations of the Swiss-Peruvian Initiative on Forests.

The report takes a forward-looking approach, recognizes the cross-sectoral nature of complex forest-related issues and examines the anticipated functions and activities required to be performed by international and regional organizations and multilateral institutions and instruments to support internationally agreed future priorities for forests. It considers the evolving environment in which organizations operate and for which they have a comparative advantage at the international level. It then assesses some of the potential, specific forest-related needs and functions at the international level. It describes briefly the role of non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

* E/CN.17/IPF/1996/13.

96-20033 (E) 060996 090996

/...

The report suggests that the issue is not how many agencies and instruments are engaged in forest-related activities, but if there are appropriate mechanisms to formulate an international forest policy agenda and the means with which to coordinate and mobilize the diverse strengths and capabilities of institutions and instruments around it.

International forums for policy-level discussion and debate need to include a structured set of interlocked bodies to deal effectively with major forest issues, with a mechanism for high-level dialogue to deal with priorities and over-arching issues in a cohesive, comprehensive and holistic manner.

A significant part of the problem of coordinated action is clearly that each agency must respond to its own governing body within the current international context, and that there is no real intergovernmental mechanism for guiding relatively continuous joint action as regards forests, which is the only real product of coordination.

Non-governmental organizations (e.g., private sector organizations, environment and development organizations, organizations of indigenous people and of forest dwellers) play a number of different roles at the international level. Some international non-governmental organizations are particularly well-positioned to contribute to the future work of United Nations organizations engaged in forest-related activities.

The forest-related issues and activities under conventions are somewhat different in nature from those of organizations and institutions, as they are governed by legal commitments among countries. Some of the instruments have only recently come into force and their operational capacity and impact remain to be seen.

The Panel may wish to discuss such proposals as a high-level forum for international policy dialogue; strengthened activities supporting international policy formulation; significantly enhanced strategic data collection and analysis capability; strengthened forest research and development activities and institutions; formulation of mechanisms and arrangements for coordination and collaboration; and the desirability of a new institutional system of pooled funding.

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
INTRODUCTION		1 - 8	5
I.	THE EVOLVING CONTEXT	9 - 14	6
II.	EXISTING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTRUMENTS	15 - 21	8
III.	INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK AND AREAS REQUIRING ENHANCEMENT	22 - 65	10
	A. International forest policy forums	26 - 31	11
	B. International data acquisition systems	32 - 34	12
	C. Strategic analysis systems	35 - 37	12
	D. Scientific research, analysis and development	38 - 41	13
	E. Pilot projects	42 - 45	14
	F. Extension systems	46 - 50	15
	G. Capacity development	51 - 54	16
	H. Investment capital	55 - 59	16
	I. Coordination of international efforts	60 - 62	17
	J. International instruments	63	17
	K. General observations	64 - 65	18
IV.	ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL	66 - 75	19
	A. Non-governmental organizations	66 - 73	19
	B. Private sector	74 - 75	20
V.	COORDINATION MECHANISMS AND AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS	76 - 80	21
	A. Coordination mechanisms	76 - 78	21
	B. Ad hoc arrangements	79 - 80	22

CONTENTS (continued)

	Paragraphs	Page
VI. OPTIONS FOR ACTION	81 - 82	22
Annex. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTRUMENTS AND ESTIMATE OF MOST RELEVANT INVOLVEMENT WITH RESPECT TO PROGRAMME ELEMENTS I.1-IV OF THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON FORESTS		24

INTRODUCTION

1. The present document reports on the first programme element (V.1) of category V (International organizations and multilateral institutions and instruments, including appropriate legal mechanisms) of the work programme of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF).

2. The work under programme element V.1 is guided by the decisions taken at the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and further elaborated at the first session of the Panel.

3. The Commission defined programme element V.1 as a need to "Develop a clearer view of the work being carried out by international organizations and multilateral institutions and under existing instruments as appropriate, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA), in forest-related issues, including United Nations Conference on Environment and Development decisions related to forests, and the institutional linkages emanating therefrom, in order to identify any gaps, and areas requiring enhancement, as well as any areas of duplication". 1/

4. Subsequently, the Panel, at its first session, emphasized the need for the preparation of a report presenting an overview and description of existing institutions and instruments, including their role and mandates vis à vis programme elements I-IV, and identifying institutional linkages, gaps, areas requiring enhancement and any areas of duplication (E/CN.17/IPF/1995/3, para. 18). The Panel decided to schedule programme element V.1 for substantive discussion at its third session.

5. During the brief initial discussion of programme element V.1 at its second session, the Panel reiterated the views expressed at the Commission's third session and the Panel's first session. In addition, the Panel stated, inter alia, that some options should be explored for achieving better cooperation and coordination, and for maximizing efficiency and effectiveness, among forest-related international and regional institutions, and, if appropriate, for the reorganization of existing structures of governance of those institutions, in order to maximize coordination and the mobilization of their comparative advantages; the ways and means by which other types of organizations (for example, non-governmental, intergovernmental and research organizations) can contribute effectively to the activities of United Nations organizations should also be explored.

6. The present report was prepared by the secretariat of the Panel, in consultation with the informal, high-level Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests. In the preparation of the report, consideration was given to the deliberations of the Swiss-Peruvian Initiative in support of programme element V.1. Extensive use was made of the information gathered in support of the Initiative, as well as the results of the discussions that took place among the independent experts

during two meetings, held from 5 to 7 March 1996 and from 24 to 28 June 1996, including the general conclusions drawn at those meetings.

7. The report takes a forward-looking approach, recognizes the cross-sectoral nature of complex forest-related issues and examines the anticipated functions and activities required to be performed by international and regional organizations and multilateral institutions and instruments to support internationally agreed future priorities for forests. It does not attempt an in-depth analysis of the past performance of each relevant organization. Such an in-depth assessment would require, among others things, assessments at the national and field levels, which is not possible within the resources available for the preparation of the report, and within the time frame of the Panel.

8. The report discusses briefly the evolving environment in which these organizations operate and examines general functions which can best be fulfilled, with a comparative advantage, at the international level. It then assesses some of the potential, specific forest-related needs and functions at the international level. The details of this needs assessment are also forthcoming through the ongoing IPF process related to programme elements I.1 to IV. The report identifies a framework for potential international action and identifies areas requiring enhancement. It also describes briefly the role of non-governmental organizations and the private sector, the current coordinating mechanisms and ad hoc arrangements. The report finally suggests a set of proposals for action for consideration by the Panel.

I. THE EVOLVING CONTEXT

9. The enormous political, economic, social, environmental and technological changes of the past decade have had implications for the international community and the organizations it governs. Significant concepts have evolved - for example, Agenda 21 representing a comprehensive programme of change for achieving sustainable development worldwide, which also embodies chapter 11 (Combating deforestation) and the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All types of Forests (Forest Principles), crucial to international work on forests. These developments have resulted in new intergovernmental mechanisms and the realignment of the activities of most United Nations system organizations in the economic, trade, environmental, financial and social areas. The past decade has also seen the emergence of a significant number of legally binding and other formal and informal non-legally binding instruments at the international level which impact either directly or indirectly on sustainable forests management. International organizations are striving to meet challenges imposed by change, but often find themselves hampered in their efforts by lack of consensus on programme priorities in their governing bodies, and increasingly severe budget limitations.

10. There is an ongoing open debate about what exactly is the comparative advantage of international organizations, in particular that of the United Nations system, reflecting to a degree national debates on the function and role of the public sector versus the private sector and civil society. The present report takes into account some of the principal trends evolving from this

general debate. It is clear that in the twenty-first century, international organizations will have to be able to detect and adapt to change in a more dynamic way in order to respond to diverse and ever-changing needs of Governments and civil society.

11. Many suggestions have been advanced about the functions which could be performed at an international level in the economic, environmental, sustainable development and social fields. A few recurring suggestions on these functions can be broadly described as follows:

(a) Assessment of needs and problems in areas of "common" or "global" concern;

(b) Facilitation of consensus-building and establishment of common norms and regimes among countries;

(c) Provision of forums for Governments, civil society and other international actors, inter alia, for international policy formulation and exchange of experiences; promotion of cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration;

(d) Servicing of global and regional intergovernmental meetings;

(e) Assistance of various kinds, including capacity-building, financial and technical cooperation and investment mobilization;

(f) Evaluation of progress made and proposing of policy options for further development and implementation of effective activities at the national, regional and global levels.

12. These general functions have to be supported by a set of important basic activities in order to examine emerging issues and provide an agenda for the international community, namely:

(a) Global data and information gathering, dissemination, access, statistical compilation and interpretation;

(b) Policy research, analysis, and options for action;

(c) Strategic trends studies of a global scope;

(d) Formal and informal consultations with relevant actors.

13. If the role of the United Nations system as a whole is to facilitate the harmonization of common efforts of countries and to establish, where necessary, regimes and common norms and to promote the common good or shared international interests, then what does it mean in the context of the world's forests? In contrast to oceans, for example, forests are not located on any "international territory" or "global commons". They are physically located within national boundaries and many of their economic, social and environmental functions (e.g., wood production and soil conservation) are local or national in scope, while

other functions (e.g., watershed forests of international rivers, biodiversity and carbon sequestration) are of transboundary, regional or global dimensions.

14. The treatment of forest-related issues at the international level, so far, can be seen as a reflection of the fast-changing demands at different levels, nationally, regionally and globally, and in relation to evolving cross-sectoral approaches. Forest-related issues may encompass a wide variety of such cross-sectoral issues as trade, poverty, consumption and production patterns and technology transfer. New perceptions on how forests should be governed, conserved, utilized and prioritized as a natural resource have proliferated. Within the evolving perceptions and concerns about the role of forests there are now new "interested parties", which were neither traditional decision makers nor special interest groups in the past. There is also a rapidly developing trend towards reduced roles of Governments at the national level, due in part to the formation of multi-country blocs and a preference for private sector solutions. International organizations will increasingly be engaged in activities which involve major private sector groups, such as commercial private enterprises and transnational corporations. These kinds of activities could include the facilitation of an effective role for the private sector as well as the development of codes of conduct. Such trends have far-reaching implications for international organizations, multilateral institutions and international instruments as well as the groups with which they interact.

II. EXISTING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTRUMENTS

15. Forests simultaneously provide a wide range of economic, social, environmental and industrial benefits at the local, national, regional and global levels. Consequently, an equally wide range of constituencies and special interest groups have emerged that are concerned with specific aspects or with issues of a specific geographical scale. Furthermore, most forest-related issues are complex and cross-sectoral in scope. Equally diverse are the mandates and activities of international agencies and instruments concerned directly or indirectly with forests.

16. In the context of the above, the nature of the work of international organizations, multilateral institutions and existing legal instruments is changing and will continue to evolve significantly in the future in areas ranging from the focus of their assistance at the national level, to coordination requirements (institutional, national, regional and global), to arrangements for servicing the international forest policy debate. It is not surprising that no single agency or international instrument has the necessary mandate and/or resources to address forest-related issues with all their complexities. The issue is not how many agencies and instruments are engaged in forest-related activities, but if there are appropriate mechanisms to formulate an international forest policy agenda and the means with which to coordinate and mobilize the diverse strengths and capabilities of institutions and instruments around it.

17. Brief descriptions of the mandates and forest-related activities of relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions provided by the Swiss-Peruvian Initiative and set against the framework of the programme

elements of the Panel's work programme are contained in the annex below, to give a sense of the scope and focus of these organizations. A description of existing instruments can be found in the report of the Secretary-General on programme element V.2, (Contribution to consensus-building towards the further implementation of the Forest Principles) (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/24).

18. The table in the annex should be studied with some caution: at first glance it would appear that many organizations are involved in the same area and their activities duplicated. However, the nature of their work can also be differentiated by at least seven "horizontal" activities, namely:

- Financing;
- Technology transfer and cooperation;
- Capacity-building;
- Information collection and dissemination;
- Coordination;
- Research and analysis;
- Policy formulation.

19. Current resource constraints and the fact that the substantive and operational focus of forest-related activities in the different organizations varies greatly, makes the risk of serious overlaps fairly modest. Only a few of the organizations have considerable human and financial resources specifically dedicated to forest-specific activities. Organizations with fewer resources dedicated to forests but with relevant activities of a different focus, play an enriching and complementary, rather than duplicative, role. Addressing many of the complex forest-related issues on the Panel's agenda requires the input of more than one agency. However, forest-related activities are largely underfunded, a concern which is further explored in the report of the Secretary-General on programme element II (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/19).

20. While the present report focuses to a large extent on United Nations system organizations, it should be noted that many other organizations provide the bulk of inputs to forest-related work at all levels: local, national, regional and international. In the United Nations system, programmes and specialized agencies respond primarily to decisions taken by their governing bodies, in which Governments are usually represented by different relevant sectoral ministries. This could be somewhat problematic as regards forest-related issues involving the sustainable management of forest and forest-dependent resources, which would demand more integrated, cross-disciplinary approaches. This was recognized in chapter 38 of Agenda 21, in which it is stated that coordination and mutual complementarity of the efforts of all relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to promote integration of environment and development can be enhanced by encouraging countries to maintain consistent positions in the various governing bodies. 2/ For certain general issues this works relatively well both from an institutional and from a

government point of view. However, as many of the international organizations with forest-related activities were established during an era embracing perspectives and concerns differing from those of today, fairly fragmented and specialized approaches have evolved. Even if there are clear drawbacks with the necessarily specialized nature of some of these organizations in approaching forest-related problems, in some cases this has resulted in building a critical mass of expertise and resources in some areas of great importance to forests.

21. The forest-related issues and activities under conventions are somewhat different in nature from those of organizations and institutions, as they are governed by legal commitments among countries. The Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, CITES, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially on Waterfowl Habitat and the Convention Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries (ILO Convention No. 169) and are all relevant to only some functions of forests. Some of those instruments have only recently come into force and their operational capacity and impact remain to be seen.

III. INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK AND AREAS REQUIRING ENHANCEMENT

22. This section draws on the emerging proposals for action contained in the reports on other programme elements prepared for the Panel, while examining their potential institutional implications, as well as on the outcome of the Swiss-Peruvian Initiative.

23. It was noted by the Swiss-Peruvian Initiative that international organizations and multilateral institutions had to internalize United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) decisions within the framework of their basic texts, mandates, by-laws and structures, and within the limitations of their own capacities and budgets; even though these were of interest to the study, it was considered that the countries and people concerned would be more interested in the quantity and quality of programmes, projects and local activities.

24. A significant part of the problem of coordinated action is clearly that each agency must respond to its own governing body within the current international context, and that there is no real intergovernmental mechanism for guiding relatively continuous joint action as regards forests, which is the only real product of coordination.

25. Improved conduct of various international policy dialogues on forest-related issues, and more effective international action on key problems can be achieved through enhancement and use of existing elements and functions in an international framework. The following discussion aims to highlight these elements through simple descriptions and to set them against an assessment of areas requiring enhancement and the international need that they could fulfil. To visualize the issue, agency activities are roughly cross-referenced to international functions.

A. International forest policy forums

26. International forums for policy-level discussion and debate need to be a structured set of interlocked forums to deal effectively with major forest issues, with a mechanism for high-level dialogue to deal with priorities and over-arching issues in a cohesive, comprehensive and holistic manner.

27. The Committee on Forestry (COFO) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), has provided the main forum for international discussion on forestry and forests since 1972 and prior to the establishment of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests. COFO, which has focused on advising the FAO Council on its forestry programme of work as well as profiling emerging forestry policy issues, has been firmly under the aegis of this agriculture-oriented and agriculture-dominated organization. The linkage with agriculture policy is apparent, given agriculture's profound influence on forests; however, linkages have not been at equal levels, which has had an impact on FAO's forestry budget. In 1995 FAO organized, in conjunction with COFO, but separate from it, the first ever meeting of forest ministers, within a broader and more independent stance, and provided high-level advice to the Commission on Sustainable Development in the form of the Rome Statement on Forestry.

28. The six Regional Forestry Commissions (Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; Near East; and North America), founded under FAO's mandate, have acted mostly as forums for discussion on technical issues and occasionally for regional policy questions and debate. Those with active participation of developed countries are largely recognized as having been effective. The effectiveness of others is hampered by limited inter-sessional activities and insufficient travel funds to attend meetings. FAO's periodic shifts from emphasis on strategic studies activities (e.g., global data systems, regional timber trend studies, policy/planning studies) in order to give needed support to national and regional field-level activities, have been one factor in corresponding shifts at the level of regional policy forums.

29. The International Tropical Timber Agreement-International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTA-ITTO) system was established over a long (20-year) evolutionary period, through an initiative of FAO and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to discuss global trade issues in tropical forest products. Emerging issues over the years, such as the need for improved tropical forest management and the need to address forest-related UNCED decisions have added to the already substantive challenge of ITTO's discussion and action mandate on trade and development.

30. Some of the most significant lapses of effectiveness in the international forestry dialogue occurred in and around the evolution of the country planning processes (see also subsect. H below on investment capital). This resulted in the development, by both multilateral and bilateral agencies, of a multitude of approaches and concepts for adoption by recipient countries. A key problem was the lack of an intergovernmental policy dialogue on forest planning and management, as well as on forest-related concerns, among funding and technical assistance agencies that could have been more consistent with recipient sectoral

and cross-sectoral priorities, and that could have resulted in more coordinated and integrated efforts. Another associated problem was the dearth of sound, accepted strategic analysis of major regional-global problems - which could help in setting a framework for country-driven priorities within national plans.

31. The Commission on Sustainable Development model - the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests itself - together with the expressed interest of national ministers in participating in more substantive policy discussions of forest-related issues in conjunction with COFO, offer promising examples for enhanced focus of international discussion and decision-making related to forests.

B. International data acquisition systems

32. Regional and global data acquisition systems require systematic data collection on forest resources, forest functions and services, trade, prices and so forth, mostly derived from national, and in some cases private sector, data systems. Fully operational and comprehensive data acquisition systems are, therefore, related to national capacity. This requires an accepted data system at the international level, as well as a custodian of its coordination, and is fundamental to international cooperation and collective action.

33. FAO has played a historic role as the main global forest sector statistics agency - for resources, production, consumption and, together with ITTO, prices. This role has gradually improved the international network of national contributions and data handling capacities. The system is now also gradually broadening its scope in collecting data on more environmental functions of forest ecosystems with the assistance of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). Organizations such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), among others, publish FAO resource data through various channels, which FAO could not afford. The inter-agency cooperation on the 1990 global Forest Resources Assessment was excellent and should be encouraged to continue. However, this critical activity remains seriously underfunded (see the report of the Secretary-General on programme element III.1 (a) (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/20)).

34. Many new technologies (e.g., satellite imagery) provide new perspectives of global forests. In its 1990 Assessment, FAO made extensive use of satellite remote sensing and geographical information systems technologies. For the 2000 Assessment, FAO will need to overcome resource constraints in order to fulfil plans to cooperate fully with national and international remote-sensing agencies which have global and regional land and forest cover mapping projects.

C. Strategic analysis systems

35. A strategic analysis system should include competent strategic analysis of clearly defined needs and issues. Communication with major user groups is crucial. Diverse approaches and perceptions are not only necessary but feasible

by using an accepted database from different points of view. Forest policy forums, as mentioned above, especially a high-level international dialogue, must have access to these analyses for sound policy guidance.

36. The general weakness in strategic analyses of particular issues and in some narrow sectoral approaches has led to many problems in the evolution of the Tropical Forests Action Programme-National Forestry Action Plan (TFAP-NFAP) process of cooperative official development assistance (ODA) planning. The weakness of strategic analysis in the international forest arena has also had an impact on the trade and environment discussions of ITTA, and has been a factor in similar discussions of the non-tropical timber trade.

37. A considerably strengthened focus within international organizations on strategic data collection and analysis and closer attention to the appropriate level and field of focus should rapidly improve strategic analysis of global forest-related issues. There is considerable scope for inter-agency collaboration in producing strategic studies on forest-related issues, possibly modelled on the task manager approach of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development. The expanding global capacity for such studies at universities and institutes and in non-governmental organizations, is impressive. A clear need can be identified for improved focus and reporting to major action groups: international and regional forums (with their associated sub-forums), countries, banks, bilateral donor agencies, private investors and United Nations agencies. Improved periodic assessment and feedback channels from these same operational groups/agencies are also needed. A set of interlocking international policy forums should set the agenda and priorities for such studies.

D. Scientific research, analysis and development

38. Scientific, research, analysis and development should involve organized programmes of specialized research on critical forest-related priority issues, including sustainable forest management, forests and biodiversity, economic instruments and policy, agroforestry, rural sociology, traditional knowledge, underlying causes of deforestation, restoration of degraded forest land, impact of pervasive stresses on forests, and improved forest products (see the report of the Secretary-General on programme element II (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/19), in particular section II on technology transfer).

39. The broadening of the mandate of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to more explicitly include resource sustenance, with the addition of two forestry centres - the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) and the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) - should be viewed as a highly positive development in international forestry. The need to integrate traditional knowledge with modern scientific methods and trials is inadequately recognized within the current framework.

40. Start-up of CIFOR was, however, delayed in part owing to the lack of a common vision of what was needed, and how results could best be achieved. These are important and continuing matters for an international policy debate on

forest-related issues within the overall context of sustainable development. There may already be risks that general restraint in agriculture research funding will impact excessively on forestry programmes. The objective of expanding forest policy research within the network is arguably inadequately guided within the current framework.

41. The general "institute without walls" approach taken by both ICRAF and CIFOR is positive, in terms of effectively using scarce resources and maximizing extension possibilities, and should be built upon. Options for expanding the network should look at adding research centres, preferably through enhancing existing national centres and increasing the use of regional networks, such as the European Forest Institute, the Boreal Forest Research Network and the Asia-Pacific Association for Forest Research Institutes. High-level policy guidance and resource allocations should help with future funding to support this critical activity, and should take full advantage of emerging initiatives at the regional level.

E. Pilot projects

42. Pilot applications of improved technology and knowledge would involve an organized system for periodic assessment of pilot trials on new, integrated land-use systems, involving traditional systems of agriculture, range management, forestry, soil conservation, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and water management, to address emerging pressures from increasing populations and consumption.

43. In spite of nominal pilot trial programmes in most international agencies, there has been a long-standing "gap" between the new forest knowledge-technology frontier and field applications. Key problems include:

(a) The mandate of most bankers, ODA donors and national finance agencies appears on occasion to be risk averse: "proven" development project formats are preferred;

(b) Poor farmers in degraded lands and socio-economically marginalized inhabitants of the forest fringe are in no position to accept all the risks inherent in new land-use and management methods;

(c) Many new methods require new tenures and new distribution of costs and benefits - in some cases, involving apparently risky national policy changes;

(d) Researchers have a predilection for high-tech analysis and solutions to problems;

(e) Inadequate monitoring of existing trials, and inadequate feedback with respect to societal and individual investment decisions.

44. This has led to pilot trials of new systems being perennially underfunded in relation to the needs of local, rural populations living near forests. This does not mean that subsidies and incentives should be expanded or extended indefinitely. However, new systems have to be given a fair trial and periodic

assessment-feedback systems have to be timely and intensive. A similar set of problems has been identified in the development of sustainable forest management systems for temperate and boreal forests, mainly in developed countries.

45. Enhanced high-level policy formulation is essential to set priorities for an explicit programme of pilot trials and to ensure development of effective periodic assessment-feedback and international extension systems.

F. Extension systems

46. Extension and knowledge dissemination systems should be targeted programmes of extension with emphasis on ground-level users, maximizing the effectiveness of financing agencies, workable tools for sustainable development, and periodic progress and assessment reports.

47. In spite of nominal extension programmes in every international agency and programme, a recurrent set of weaknesses has been identified with respect to forests and forest-dependent resources (generally in both developing and developed countries), for example,

(a) Failure to reach the field operational levels;

(b) Failure to be driven by country priority needs;

(c) Failure to reach investors, the ODA community and national finance agencies;

(d) Failure to reach the general public and/or their NGO public personae.

48. Unrealistic expectations, often the result of inadequate clarity and frankness in communications, are at least as big a problem as more tangible problems with system performance. The general dissatisfaction with current ODA, on both donor and recipient sides, is similar to the broad public dissatisfaction with sustainability of current forest management practices in this regard. A feasible matching of publicly stated targets and actual resources committed has not been worked out operationally.

49. Inadequate structuring of decision-making and communication processes is clearly a factor in poor extension results. In general, the broadest possible participatory mechanisms are needed for good extension. The Forests and Trees and People Programme (FTPP) of FAO, is an example of a programme which has successfully addressed some of these concerns. FTPP is a decentralized, regionally based network focused on participatory approaches, land and resource tenure issues, conflict management, and terms of negotiation between interested groups. The Small Grants programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), administered and coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is also an interesting modality, which provides small grants (under US$ 50,000) directly to community-based activities within the objectives of GEF. Project selection is done at the country level through committees with broad representation.

50. There is also an important relationship between successful applications (pilot projects) and extension-communications. Systems that work successfully in field practice virtually extend themselves and lead to improved communications and spread of the technology. On the other hand, no extension service or budget is large enough to extend inoperational and unprofitable systems very far.

G. Capacity development

51. Capacity-building should be targeted towards human resource and institutional development programmes related to actual country needs; and could involve regional programmes to help poorer countries. Along with national Governments, FAO, UNDP, the multilateral development banks, ODA donors and many others have taken roles in this field for several decades.

52. However, there is still a dearth of internationally agreed policy frameworks, and a lack of agreement on the criteria and indicators necessary to show real progress in sustainable development of natural resources, in particular forest management (most of the indicators of general sustainable development currently in use appear to indicate limited real progress, or real losses).

53. Further, even after decades of country projects, many developing countries are still unable to reach minimum human resources development targets for forest and natural resource managers on their own. Better original formulation of such projects, and improved guidance and periodic assessment approaches could flow from an improved set of forest policy forums.

54. Larger developing countries are doing better in the 1990s, albeit subject to financial constraints. They, as well as developed countries, could profit from improved regional human resource development programmes and facilities.

H. Investment capital

55. Collection and application of development capital could involve coordinated and high-level targeted funding for data collection; policy and strategy analysis; selected research and/or pilot trials; and assistance for coordination at the national/field level, mainly for capacity-building. Contributors include banks, agencies, bilateral donors and private donors. Funds could be allocated more effectively and coordinated through high-level international policy guidance to existing agencies, institutions, non-governmental organizations and the like.

56. Investment capital is a crucial driving force in the sustainable development of the resources of developing countries. The main international agents are the World Bank system, including the International Development Association (IDA) and the regional banks. UNDP has played a prominent role in assembling capital for capacity expansion. Bilateral ODA donors have contributed capital to both core capacity development and project enterprises.

57. It is significant to note that these "engines" of international development have also been one of the most dissatisfied users or clients with respect to past and current international forest policy guidance and strategic analysis capabilities. They face the difficult tasks of defining the future of sustainable development in practice, in a changing world, as embodied in their next set of investments. It can be problematic for these organizations to combine funding and policy roles, and they could usefully depend for policy analysis on other agencies better positioned to carry out strategic sector studies. Conversely, agencies involved in more technical activities could usefully leave financing activities to funding agencies.

58. International organizations will have an increasing role to play in facilitating private capital flows and encouraging the adoption of policies which create a supportive environment for private investment.

59. There is room for improved mechanisms and information for high-level strategic guidance in this particular field. Funding agents should be able to obtain strategic guidance from a broader international forest community in a more effective, coherent and consistent manner than at present. There is a critical need for high-level, normative guidance from an authoritative source, not for detailed prescriptions.

I. Coordination of international efforts

60. Coordination of the activities of United Nations organizations and others dealing with forest-related and forest-dependent resources in the international arena is essential in the age of reform and restraint. In general this should be accomplished by highly focused agendas, step by step, with financial resources to backup the effort.

61. Examples of useful coordination of effort abound in the international arena, as do examples of agency conflict and uncoordinated activity. Improved coordination would be particularly useful in the preparation of national action plans, strategic studies and reporting requirements under the different conventions (see sect. VI below).

62. Improved coordination of diverse agencies fundamentally requires authority as well as goodwill, and can be expanded most rapidly through tangible resource flows, monitored for impact in the desired coordinated way. Some form of global sustainable forest management fund operating under the advisement and allocative control of a high-level policy forum would focus discussions and follow-up actions.

J. International instruments

63. Many relevant international legally binding instruments already exist; for example, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification, CITES, ITTA, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Ramsar Convention. They deal mostly with forest-dependent resources. In fact they form almost a perfect net around forests, without

dealing directly, cohesively and comprehensively with forests. This is a relatively inoperational situation for the long term holistic sustenance of these resources. As a simple example, it is a fact that species can be revived more or less "in vitro" but cannot be ultimately protected without reference to other components of the ecosystem. The same is true for watersheds, wetlands and the atmosphere.

K. General observations

64. Some important overall weaknesses in the current situation can be identified from the preceding discussion. It highlights the fact that at present too little effort goes into the base allocation decisions between these and other areas of effort. Together with the information provided in the annex below, this situation reveals more of a random institutional walk around forest-related issues over the past two decades than a coordinated assault on forest problems, at the global, regional, national and local levels. Resources have not automatically or rapidly flowed in the most effective direction to address newly perceived problems. Just as every country has had to face integration and rationalization of programmes related to forests and forest-dependent resources, the international arena has had to face the same concerns.

65. Five key problems and areas requiring enhancement can be identified:

(a) A high-level policy forum structure, as part of an institutional framework, focused on forests, forest-dependent resources and forest-related issues, with strong, balanced links to national objectives and programmes, does not exist;

(b) Not surprisingly, because of the lack of a defined clientele, regional and strategic studies regarding forest-related issues have been sporadic, scattered, uncoordinated and not integrated;

(c) Lack of a clear focus to define a forest research agenda at the global and regional levels, and to coordinate the now critically underfunded research in the context of expanded needs;

(d) Pilot applications of new approaches and technologies in forest management, for example the critical frontiers of agroforestry, have not been adequately coordinated with research, nor have they been adequately assessed periodically for lessons learned; nor have the results been broadly extended;

(e) Coordination of forest-related activities, especially concerning assistance for national forest programmes, strategic studies and reporting requirements under the existing instruments, needs strengthening.

IV. ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

A. Non-governmental organizations

66. Non-governmental organizations play a number of different roles at the international level. They are involved in the conceptual development of and provision of support to national forest and land-use plans; they are working on developing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. They are analysing the feasibility, benefits and drawbacks of labelling schemes for sustainably harvested forest products. They are also involved in research, policy development, lobbying national Governments and international organizations, project funding and execution, education, capacity-building and public awareness.

67. Some international non-governmental organizations are particularly well-positioned to contribute to the future work of United Nations organizations engaged in forest-related activities. Moreover, by representing the broader range of interests, such organizations can reach out transnationally to a wide range of participants in international forums, governmental and non-governmental, capital city and grassroots, North and South. Non-governmental organizations are an important conduit of information in both directions. They can disseminate information about activities at the international level to their networks and members at the national, local and grassroots levels.

68. Contributions of non-governmental organizations can be broadly defined in the following five categories: education and public awareness; capacity-building; information provision both from the top down and from the bottom up; research and publication support for follow-up activities, including monitoring of implementation; and implementing and funding projects at the local level. While activities of non-governmental organizations in the forest sector are not limited to these five categories, they are the primary areas where international non-governmental organizations often play an important role, complementary to that of national and local level non-governmental organizations as well as Governments and intergovernmental organizations, which has increasing implications for the future work of the United Nations system in forest-related activities.

69. Education and public awareness. The ability of international non-governmental organizations to reach concerned constituencies can be an important tool for spreading the message about sustainable forest management work at the international level. In addition to disseminating their own materials, many non-governmental organizations are often willing to co-produce and disseminate materials on forest-related issues emanating from the United Nations system.

70. Capacity-building. International programmes on forests and forest-related issues should take into consideration the work that is already being done by international non-governmental organizations in developing countries in the area of capacity-building and what they can contribute in the future.

71. Information provision. International non-governmental organizations often have the comparative advantage in information provision, whether it is providing a conduit for information from the international arena to the grassroots or taking information from the local level back up to the national or international levels. Therefore, future international efforts concerned with sustainable management of forests should have a mechanism to facilitate the participation of non-governmental organizations in the collection, analysis, exchange and dissemination of information about the forested areas of the world.

72. Research and technical assistance. International non-governmental organizations can also provide scientific and technical assistance to Governments and the United Nations system through their own research and their ties with the scientific and local communities (often indigenous or agricultural). International initiatives on forests should examine the research and scientific activities that are already being carried out by non-governmental organizations, so as to save money, avoid duplication of efforts and enrich the overall body of knowledge.

73. Funding. The great majority of international non-governmental organizations are not funding agencies but depend on external contributions for their activities. However, they represent an important channel for the funding of sustainable forest management and should not be ignored. Many foundations are themselves non-governmental organizations and channel their contributions partly or entirely through international non-governmental organizations in both developed and developing countries. In addition, bilateral donor agencies and international development banks are increasingly defining internal goals for certain amounts of resources to be channelled through non-governmental organizations. International non-governmental organizations often fund projects undertaken by national or local non-governmental organizations in developing countries and in some countries with economies in transition.

B. Private sector

74. The role of international private sector capital flows (in the form of investment and lending) is expected to gain in relative importance in view of the anticipated lack of significant increases in ODA for financing sustainable forest management. The challenge for international organizations, including non-governmental organizations is to support Governments in their efforts to redirect and channel existing international private sector resources towards activities related to sustainable forest management by creating the right conditions for this to happen, including reducing resource tenure and market risks, funding incremental costs of internalizing environmental externalities, and covering additional costs of preparing project and investment plans.

75. With increasing capital flows and investments, the international private sector will play an increasingly significant role in capacity-building, transfer of technology, research and development, flow of information and so forth in developing countries. Examples of this are already appearing in countries that have established appropriate conditions for long-term international investments, whereas it is maintained at minimum levels where private foreign investment is taking place under conditions of political and/or economic uncertainty.

V. COORDINATION MECHANISMS AND AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS

A. Coordination mechanisms

76. The report of the Secretary-General on chapter 38 of Agenda 21 (E/CN.17/1995/3), submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session, gives a brief description of how United Nations organizations and other agencies have realigned their programmes in response to UNCED objectives as regards forest-related issues. More general descriptions of the institutional arrangements to follow up UNCED can be found in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.17/1996/16), submitted to the Commission at its fourth session, as well as in a background paper made available to the Commission. Within the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD), FAO is assigned the role of task manager for UNCED decisions relating to chapter 11, (Combating deforestation) of Agenda 21 and the Forest Principles, and is responsible for facilitating harmonized action within the United Nations system. IACSD, in its initial phase, has been mainly concerned with coordination of procedural and organizational discussions and reporting arrangements. Discussions are now moving more towards conceptual and policy-oriented aspects and the evolving function of task managers in the development of joint programmes and approaches for implementation at the country level.

77. In order to ensure coherent support to and wide participation in the IPF process by the United Nations system, an informal high-level Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests was formed in 1995. This mechanism has been particularly effective in coordinating the necessary input from the United Nations system to service the Panel. This Task Force is in part modelled on IACSD in the sense that in order to coordinate reporting, organizations have taken the responsibility for producing background documents for the reports of the Secretary-General on different programme elements of the Panel's work programme. The coordination and collaboration are taken a step further, however, because, in addition, the Task Force has as a joint activity been able to ensure proper staffing of the Panel's secretariat, mostly by secondments of experts from different organizations. The experience of this arrangement has so far been positive and could serve as a prototype of any future coordination mechanisms.

78. Several coordinating mechanisms, involving bilateral and multilateral institutions, recipient countries, non-governmental organizations and experts, already exist in relation to subjects covered by several of the programme elements of the Panel's work programme. The Kotka meetings on the global Forest Resources Assessment 2000 is one example; the Forestry Advisors Group (FAG) of donors in forestry is another. Regarding national forest programmes, a long intergovernmental debate in the FAO Council led to an agreement on the establishment of a Consultative Forum for National Forest Action Plans, provided that extrabudgetary funding would be forthcoming. Since no such funding has been made available, the Consultative Forum has not been convened. However, these and other already functioning mechanisms could form the basis for future, formal or informal coordination mechanisms.

B. Ad hoc arrangements

79. Since UNCED there have been many government-led initiatives attempting to define, at least in part, the areas of priority action on forests and forest-related issues which would reconcile the variety of functions of forests at different levels. The establishment of the Panel represents an ad hoc intergovernmental arrangement bringing together the results of these different processes as well as a unique opportunity for a "reality check" for the generic debates on an array of cross-cutting issues that, for example, are under deliberation in the Commission on Sustainable Development and have to be applied as a test case on forests at a very practical level. Of particular value to the Panel's deliberations are the results of 11 country-led initiatives involving hundreds of experts around the world. These unique initiatives, frequently involving North-South sponsorship, have synthesized existing information and generated new insights on the issues under consideration by the Panel.

80. The Panel's secretariat is an ad hoc one, staffed through contributions and secondments from the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, FAO, ITTO, UNDP and UNEP. The time-bound nature of the Panel has made it possible for these organizations to service an international level policy debate in this manner, in some cases, by carrying the extra costs involved from regular budgets, but in most cases, extrabudgetary funds have had to be sought. There are definite advantages, from an integration and coordinating point of view, in having the different organizations represented in the servicing of an international level policy debate, bringing with them their specific expertise as well as the policy frameworks from their individual governing bodies. The Panel's secretariat has also established working arrangements with the non-governmental community and the private sector.

VI. OPTIONS FOR ACTION

81. Several interrelated areas that are in critical need of enhancement and improved action have been discussed and identified in the present report, particularly:

(a) A high-level forum for international policy debate on forests and forest-related issues;

(b) Strategic data collection and analysis capability - regional and global;

(c) Regional and global projects - especially projects related to capacity-building;

(d) Focused and additional funding for research and development, including pilot project operations of regional and global significance;

(e) Improved mechanisms for coordination of efforts by agencies and instruments on international forest-related issues.

82. The Panel may wish to consider:

(a) Appropriate mechanisms for enhanced high-level policy guidance for defining action programmes in priority areas, such as:

(i) Analysing, discussing and building consensus on important international forest-related issues, including underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation; forests and biodiversity; forest product trade, forest planning and sustainable management; restoration of degraded forest land and ecosystems; traditional forest-related knowledge and sharing of benefits; and research-development priorities, including policy research;

(ii) Formulating and focusing of funding and considering other international financing mechanisms for sustainable forest management, forest research, forest assessment, including all forest-dependent and forest-related resource conservation and management aspects;

(iii) Improving capacities to effect sustainable forest-based development in all countries;

(b) Enhanced and improved strategic data sets and analysis systems as crucial to guide high-level policy discussions;

(c) Strengthened global-level forest research and development;

(d) Defining mechanisms and arrangements, at the international level, for necessary improvements to operational methods and structures to be achieved through coordination and collaboration among existing organizations or instruments;

(e) The desirability of a new institutional system of pooled funding, including for activities supporting international policy formulation, to more effectively use some existing resources and to seek new forms and sources of funding.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32), chap. I, sect. D, annex I, sect. V.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II, para. 38.20.

Annex

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTRUMENTS AND ESTIMATE OF MOST RELEVANT INVOLVEMENT WITH RESPECT TO PROGRAMME ELEMENTS I.1-IV OF THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON FORESTS

International organizations - United Nations system

Name		Most relevant programme element
Global Environment Facility		
Mandate	Help developing countries protect the global environment by providing grants and concessional funding to meet incremental costs for activities addressing global warming, biodiversity, international waters and ozone depletion.	II
Main forest programmes and issues	Biodiversity: forest ecosystems (development, strengthening and establishment of sustainable use methods in forestry, wildlife and biodiversity conservation).	
	Climate change: rural renewal energy, biofuel activities, carbon sink enhancement, restoration, prevention and reduction of land degradation.	
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (WMO-UNEP)		
Mandate	Periodical assessment of the scientific and technical information related to the impact of climate change and strategies for response.	I.4
Main forest programmes and issues	Improvement of forestry and agriculture, potential for increasing energy efficiency, cleaner energy sources and technology.	
	Forestry options: slowing current deforestation and forest degradation, increasing forest biomass, improving use of wood, afforestation.	

	Name	Most relevant programme element
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)		
Mandate	Mobilize financial resources to be made available on concessional terms for agricultural development for developing countries.	II
Main forest programmes and issues	Forest component of activities is indirect through agricultural projects incorporating forestry/tree planting.	
International Labour Organization (ILO)		
Mandate	Improve work and living standards throughout the world; social and labour aspects of forestry.	I.3 II
Main forest programmes and issues	FAO/ECE/ILO Joint Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training. Technical cooperation, training, employment and management development, conditions of work and working environment, industrial relations.	
International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)		
Mandate	Promote trade on tropical timber; implement ITTA; promote the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests with balance between conservation and utilization; prevent deforestation in tropical forests.	I.2 III.2 IV
Main forest programmes and issues	Economic information and market intelligence; Reforestation and forest development; Forest industry. (Guidelines for sustainable forest management, plantations, biodiversity; natural forest management; multiple-use of hardwood forests; criteria and indicators; models for sustainable production of wood and non-wood products; timber situation; policy development.)	

	Name	Most relevant programme element
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)		
Mandate	Facilitation and promotion of restructuring of traditional patterns of international trade in order to enable developing countries to participate in world commerce.	IV
Main forest programmes and issues	Integrated Programme for Commodities (tropical timber, forest product trade).	
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)		
Mandate	Promote international cooperation in the field of the environment and sustainable development; keep under review the state of the world environment; promote acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge; formulate and implement environment programmes within the United Nations.	I.1-I.5 III.1-III.2 IV
Main forest programmes and issues	Contribution to TFAP and global Forest Resources Assessments; pilot projects on integrated forestry management; ensure environmental considerations in forest-related programmes; prepare methodologies for assessing total value of forests; prepare methodologies for assessing effects of acid rain; Forest Programme 1996-2000. Participates in the Ecosystem Conservation Group.	
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
Mandate	Assist developing countries to accelerate their economic and social development by providing systematic and sustained assistance geared to their development objectives. Implementing agency for Global Environment Facility, leading United Nations agency on capacity-building issues.	I.1-I.5 II
Main forest programmes and issues	Capacity-building programmes to implement sustainable forest management (Forest Capacity Programme); environment, energy and natural resources programmes to implement Agenda 21 through Capacity 21.	

	Name	Most relevant programme element
<u>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</u>		
Mandate	Contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture.	III (scientific research)
Main forest programmes and issues	Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB/UNESCO). Encourage the establishment of international biosphere reserve network (conservation of genetic resources, ecosystems and biodiversity; research and monitoring network; association of environmental protection with sustainable land resources conservation). Responsible for World Heritage Sites.	
<u>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</u>		
Mandate	Policy forum on international forestry. Information on all aspects of forestry, primary forest products, technology and forest statistics. Forestry capacity-building and technical assistance in forestry to developing countries and countries in transition (resource management and processing, promotion of the development of the sector to reconcile the interface of social, protection and production factors).	
Main forest programmes and issues	Global forest resources: assessment, sustainable management, plantations, agroforestry, protection, conservation, genetic resources, wildlife, urban forestry etc. Forest policy, planning and institutions: planning, policy, institutions, statistics, community forestry, NGO development, education, extension and promotion of national forest programmes, international liaison and information.	

	Name	Most relevant programme element
	Forest products: harvesting, processing, utilization of wood and non-wood forest products, marketing and trade. Field programme: identification, evaluation, preparation and implementation of investment programmes and projects.	
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)		
Mandate	Raise living standards through the promotion of industrial development.	II
Main forest programmes and issues	Promotes and develops secondary wood processing industries and is responsible for dealing with issues in established mill operations. Involved in non-wood pulp industries, phyto-chemicals/ phytopharmaceuticals, aroma chemicals and essential oils. Global source of industrial information.	
World Bank		
Mandate	Lending for productive projects or finance reforms which will lead to economic growth in developing countries.	I.1, II, III.1 (valuation)
Main forest programmes and issues	Lending Programme (industrial forestry and social and environment forestry); Free standing forestry projects; Social or rural development and environment forestry programme; Watershed management/Land-use projects.	
World Food Programme (WFP)		
Mandate	Save lives in emergency situations; improve nutrition and quality of life of the most vulnerable people at critical times; and help build assets and promote self-reliance of poor people and communities.	I.4 I.5 II

	Name	Most relevant programme element
Main forest programmes and issues	Forestry "food for work" projects involving forest protection committees, nursery, reforestation, forest infrastructures development. Rural development, transport activities, human resources development, social, land reclamation, irrigation, road-building.	
<u>World Health Organization (WHO)</u>		
Mandate	Raising of living standard through improved health.	I.3
Main forest programmes and issues	Collaboration between Traditional Medicine Unit and IUCN on conservation of medicinal plants. Support to countries for research efforts to rationalize use and their pharmacological active products, often part of biodiversity development programmes.	
<u>World Trade Organization (WTO)</u>		
Mandate	Facilitate and liberalize international trade and place it on a secure basis; supervise the settlement of commercial conflicts; recognize the need to protect the environment and promote sustainable development.	IV
Main forest programmes and issues	Committee on Trade and Environment: explore link between trade and environmental policies (compatibility between environmental protection measures and WTO rights and obligations).	

Multilateral regional development banks

Name		Most relevant programme element
African Development Bank		
Mandate	Promote economic and social development in member countries of the Bank	I.1, I.4, I.5 II
Main forest programmes and issues	Forestry Policy Paper: derive maximum economic and environmental benefits from forest resources (conservation and rehabilitation of degraded forests; fuelwood and industrial plantations; raising sawn timber production capacity; natural resource conservation; technical and technical assistance).	
Asian Development Bank		
Mandate	Assistance to developing member countries of the Bank.	I.1 II III.1 (valuation)
Main forest programmes and issues	Policy and regulatory framework; support for technological, policy and valuation research; promoting public participation in forestry development; investment strategies; cooperation with international and regional initiatives; selection and design of investment projects.	
Inter-American Development Bank		
Mandate	Assistance to member countries of the Bank.	II
Main forest programmes and issues	Financing of forest-related projects, involving reforestation, land restoration, agroforestry, fuelwood, small-scale forest products industry, conservation, institutional capacity-building and research, among others.	

International research organizations

Name		Most relevant programme element
Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)		
Mandate	Part of CGIAR. Strategic and applied research in improved forest conservation, productivity, and sustainable forest management.	I.3 III.1-III.2
Main forest programmes and issues	Improved understanding of physical, biological, economic and social aspects of forest systems in tropical developing countries. Sustainability in production from forests through management, species selection/improvement, utilization, marketing and policy. Provision of information and advice to support policy decisions. Increase national forest research capacities.	
International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)		
Mandate	Part of CGIAR. Mitigate tropical deforestation, land depletion and rural poverty through improved agroforestry systems.	I.2, I.3, I.5 III.1
Main forest programmes and issues	Strategic and applied research in partnership with national institutions to develop appropriate agroforestry technologies and strengthen national capacities through training and information dissemination. Focused on Africa, Latin America and Asia.	
International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO)		
Mandate	Promote research in forestry through a communications and collaboration network of 15,000 scientists and 700 research institutions.	III (scientific research)
Main forest programmes and issues	Meetings and exchange of information all related to scientific aspects of forestry. Promotes assistance to tropical research agencies. Identifies future needs and directions of forestry research. Special Programme for Developing Countries located in Vienna, which gives support to scientists to enable them to participate in 250 networks.	

Initiatives and processes

	Name	Most relevant programme element
Montreal Process		
Mandate	International dialogue on criteria and indicators for the conservation and sustainable management of temperate and boreal forests.	III.2
Main forest programmes and issues	Development and endorsement of the non-legally binding criteria and indicators by 10 developing and developed countries in the northern and southern hemispheres; implementation at the national level.	
Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (including the Helsinki Process)		
Mandate	Cooperation of all countries in the protection and sustainable management of forests in Europe; recommendations and themes to be further developed by international organizations and their subsidiary bodies; process to serve as reference for other forums.	III.2
Main forest programmes and issues	Monitoring forest ecosystems; genetic resources; forest fires; mountain forests; research network on physiology and forest ecosystems; Guidelines for sustainable forest management, conservation of biodiversity, adaptation to climate change; Helsinki Process; cooperation with countries in transition; criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of forests in Europe.	